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sought the advice of one versed in the subject, we might now have a worthy edition of this very useful book.

The plates from which the present issue was printed seem to have been made by photographing a copy of the original Philadelphia edition. The result is not satisfactory, for the pages have a heavy, smudgy appearance. This method, however, gives us a page-for-page reprint, making the references found in numerous works as readily traceable as in the first American edition. Portraits, excellently reproduced, of Sebastian Cabot and his doughty biographer are included.

JOHN THOMAS LEE

Robert Fulton. By Alice Crary Sutcliffe. [True stories of great Americans.] (New York: Macmillan company, 1915. 195 p. \$.50 net)

This little biography of Robert Fulton is one that makes its appeal from the very first page. It is a tale simply related, yet charmingly and attractively told. From the vast mass of data available for writing the life of the great American inventor, the author has incorporated selections which give us, in Fulton's own words, an account of every important phase of his career. We follow the lad through his early boyhood, we accompany him to Philadelphia and see him there develop his talent with paint and brush; after that he tells his own story — for none could tell it so well — of his voyage to England and of his delightful association with Benjamin West.

At this point occurred the turning point in Fulton's career. A chance visit to the country seat of the Earl of Devon brought back memories of his boyhood days in Lancaster and of the various devices which the ingenious farmers adopted to improve their lands. The need of the English farmer for some such simple applications interested Fulton so much that he began to study the problem. From this moment the young American laid aside his brushes. Science henceforth was to have his full attention. His first invention was a mill for sawing marble and stone, then came a machine for spinning flax, next he built an inclined plane for use in canals,— all intended to help mankind to better methods of work.

Then Fulton went to France, which, at the moment was enjoying a brief period of peace with England, and there Fulton began to ponder on the possibility of devising a way to end all warfare between nations. He saw the importance to the young American republic of peace, for, with Europe at war, the rights of her seamen upon the seas would receive little respect from the two greatest maritime powers of the world. Accordingly he matured his plans for the curious instrument which was to bring about universal peace. In a personal interview with Napoleon,

Fulton brought his submarine and torpedo to the attention of the French government. But the seamen were skeptical of his newfangled ideas, and, although the invention proved successful, the peace of Amiens brought hostilities to a close without his having been able to launch an attack against a hostile war craft.

Undaunted, Fulton turned his attention to a thought which had occurred to him nine years before — the invention of the steamboat. "The Steamboat from New York to Albany in 12 hours" was his confident prediction. And in his own words we read of the project he made with Chancellor Livingston, of his experiments, of his disappointments, of his unshaken faith in himself and in his ideas, and of his great triumph.

It is a charming story, charmingly told. To the boy reader this picture of the Pennsylvania lad must appeal as being a worthy example to emulate.

ROBERT NEESER

Lincoln and episodes of the civil war. By William E. Doster, late brevet brigadier general U. S. V., provost marshal of Washington. (New York and London: G. P. Putnam's sons, 1915. 282 p. \$1.50)

The period is rapidly passing when we may expect any personal recollections of the great emancipator other than those appearing as posthumous writings. There is still living at Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, and in active life, a man who was provost marshal of the district of Washington during the stirring years of 1862-3. Incidents of his official life and observations on prominent people he "jotted down on the reverse side of field maps and on loose sheets of paper" and at the close of the war made these memoranda into a form of narrative in which they now appear. In the period between the close of hostilities and 1909, the writer was too much engrossed in his professional and other duties to undertake the publication of the manuscript. An address given at Lehigh university in 1909 on his recollections of Lincoln persuaded him to give his manuscript to the public. It takes the form of ten chapters preceded by the Lehigh address.

The chapter heads cover the city of Washington in 1862, the old military prisons, the war department, incidents of provost duty, contraband negroes, cabinet members, the campaigns of Chancellorsville and Gettysburg, the capitol in 1864, and the trial of the Lincoln conspirators.

His pen sketch of Lincoln shows that "his features were not regular, his complexion was sallow, his hair was lank; a large wart disfigured his right cheek, his mouth was somewhat drawn to one side, and his big bony hands and feet alone would have deprived him of the right to be called an Adonis. His gestures were awkward and clumsy and he appeared to